

The First Breakfast

Afterwards he so comforted him that he was glad
the message of the great breakfast is "Good night"
the message of the great supper is "Remember me"
which can comfort the world.
Morning in the great night will not last. The supper of love
is what he learned with love. It shall be so a world
the morning is so he learned it the the supper of supper
from the disciples while the season of years. It
I love thee."
Peter of Peter sincere and strong. "Thou knowest that
so he was false while night the comes from the
I love thee." But Jesus will not have a witness and
in a world of a witness. "Let's go," thou knowest that
night. And I think that Peter answered the first time
but before the others turn to leaving him of the de-
arly but not Jesus taken him with so that that departure
from me." I can see the embarrassment of Peter.
When the word is finished, Jesus asked Peter, "Lovest

~~THE FIRST BREAKFAST.~~ *with the Kitee Ford*

Jn 21:12 "Jesus saidh unto them, Come and break your fast."

Intro. The Last Supper is often spoken of, but the first breakfast is seldom mentioned.

When we break bread in sacramental remembrance of Him, we feel His presence, but at the common meal, when we eat to satisfy our hunger and strengthen our bodies, we are not so conscious of His presence. There are Xns who recognize the divine Presence at the Communion table, but who never think of the Unseen Guest at the table in their own homes. They give no "Thank you" for the blessings received.

What a wonderful picture the closing chapter of John's gospel presents!

The purpose of the Gospel to present the deity of Christ, the Son of God that, believing, we might have eternal life. And here at the close of the Gospel we see Jesus in all his humanness

Here Jesus is standing on the shore of the lake, building a camp-fire, cooking fish and calling tired men to come and eat.

It is as tho John would say, "Jesus is divine because he is so human."

The last Supper is holy. *this* The first breakfast is also holy. *We should sense the presence of X at every meal.*

We have masterpieces on canvass of the Last Supper.

this Why did not the great artists reproduce for us the First Breakfast? *scene? What a picture!*

The rolling hills across the lake, above the reddening sky bespeaking of the dawn of day.

The black-gray of the placid waters giving way to a deep blue as the light of day approaches. Sail boats scattered about still at the task of fishing. And on the shore of the lake the man at the camp-fire cooking fish, surrounded by a group of 7 men, and over to one side a whole net-ful of fish the marvelous catch of the moment before.

Breakfast The Last Supper has its lessons, but surely this scene of the First Breakfast can also teach us things worth while.

I. It takes us out of doors.

Thank God for the open, for fields and forests, for hills and plains, for running streams and

and reflecting lakes and roaring oceans, for trees and grasses and flowers, for the snow clad peaks and the tang of early morning air.

What a relief it is to get away, onnce in a while from the man-made houses and pavements and go out into God's open country!

to look at the picture in
I like God's book of nature. It is easy to worship at the altar in the temple not built with hands.

But, I have learned this- if you would find God in nature, you must first find Him within yourself. You can find God in golf links, *out doors* but you must first have Him in your own heart. And, unless you have God in your heart, you will not find Him in church either. "God is spirit, and they that worship Him, must worship Him in Spirit and in truth."

Therefore, we are not prepared to worship God in the open until we have communed with Him in secret and the Father who seeth us in secret shall reward us openly.

II. ~~The final~~ breakfast was ~~a meal~~ prepared by Jesus Himself.

~~This reveals that~~ it is of concern to the Lord that men get tired and hungry, that men need food and clothing and shelter. One would naturally think that after Jesus went to the Cross and was now risen from the dead that He would be too spiritual, too infinitely above the material things of life to even give them a thought. Jesus, himself, is past physical hunger now, why, then, bother about the hunger of others? Ah, but his disciples are hungry. God's children are hungry and God cares.

And so we learn that there is religion in feeding the hungry, in giving a cup of cold water to the thirsty, in nursing sick people, in visiting the prisoners, in contributing to famine relief, in helping to relieve the sufferings of humanity.

Jesus set the example to all his followers to build a fire ^{the} beside the lake of human needs and call to starving of earth, "Come and break your fast."

Yes, these seven men are worse than failures. ~~They are sinners. Worse,~~ they are disloyal forsakers. In Christ's dark hour they all forsook Him and denied Him. But Jesus still calls to defeated men, "Come and break your fast."

III. The All-Conquering Christ.

In the Last Supper the Host, Jesus, is a defeated man, on his way to Gethsemane, to his trials, to Calvary, to the tomb.

But ~~at the First~~ Breakfast the host stands, having conquered death and now is on his way to ascension, enthronement and glory.

The men who are the guests at the meal are defeated but their Leader is not and a new day is dawning for the disciples of Christ.

The Conquering Christ is always with us. He is with us today in all the power of his glory.

Defeated men are coming back to manhood and godhood because the conquering Christ is feeding them the bread of life.

~~The testimonies from Angelus Temple last night.~~
Men may laugh at religion and Xns may forget their religion, but when a man who has been defeated comes back and makes good, men take off their hats, only fools and unbelievers scoff.

The custom of the universities and colleges of England and Scotland at one time, when honorary degrees were conferred, to indulge in a little horse-play with peas and pop_guns and yells. But when David Livingston appeared to receive his degree, peas and pop-guns were forgotten and a hush fell over the students, for they stood before them a man whose facial lines and limp arm revealed a soul greater than any degree which the university could confer. Livingston, returned from 16 yrs in African jungles, stood before the student body in the spirit and power of the conquering Christ.

Then Livingston gave his testimony as to the presence and power of Christ and plead with the boys to come and break their fast.

III. The First Breakfast started a new campaign in the world for Christ.

Jesus talked to seven defeated men, but he was thinking of the world. Jesus saw beyond the lake and the hour and penetrated into the world of human needs for ages to come, then began to make wise provision for evangelists who would carry the gospel message to all places of need.

Jesus proceeds to equip these fishermen to go forth as His representatives.

When the meal is finished, Jesus asked Peter, "Lovest thou me?" I can see the embarrassment of Peter. Why had not Jesus taken him aside to ask that question. But before the others thus to remind him of his denial'. And I think that Peter answered the first time in a sort of a whisper, "Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee". But Jesus will not have a whisper and so he asks twice more until there comes from the heart of Peter sincere and strong, "Thou knowest that I love thee".

Now the disciples have the lesson of Jesus. If the world is to be reached by the the gospel of Christ it must be reached with love. If they go to a needy world in love they will not fail. ~~The~~ Christ of Love ^{Sub, as} alone can conquer the world.

The message of the Last Supper is, "Remember me".
The message of the First Breakfast is, "Feed my sheep".
Christ wants us to remember Him that we may feed His sheep.

Thus, by ministering to needy humanity in the true love of God will the new heaven and the new earth be created.

May God help us not only to become true followers of Christ but also faithful shepherds of the flock.